

MONDAY JULY 25, 1977

Egypt-Libya: Cease-Fire Announcement

Egyptian President Sadat's announcement yesterday of an end to military operations on the Libyan border appears to be intended for new Arab "brother," and by the increasing intensity of Arab mediation efforts. In addition to the mediating role assumed by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Arafat late last week, Algerian President Boumedienne and the Kuwaiti Foreign minister travelled to Libya and Egypt yesterday to attempt to defuse the situation there.

Libya has "taught a lesson" and will refrain from future military moves against Egypt, and will return to its previous "non-interventionist" attitude against Egypt and its allies. Before the announcement, Egyptian air and ground forces hit targets in northwestern and southeastern Libya, and both sides sent reinforcements to the border area. There apparently has been no Soviet military reaction to the Egyptian-Libyan fighting. (130) BUFT NF/DC

Sadat probably was also influenced by the ultimatum being expressed in the Arab world over the fighting between two Arab "brothers," and by the increasing intensity of Arab mediation efforts. In ad-

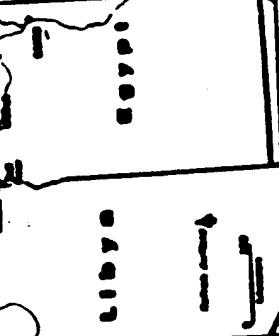
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Military Activity

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The Libyans stated that as part of a prisoner exchange, the Egyptians turned over to them Libyan exile leader Umar al-Mukhtar, who has been living in Egypt. Sadat is unlikely to accede to this demand.

Before the cease-fire announcement, Cairo radio indicated that Sadat would deliver an "important political speech" tomorrow. He is likely to take the occasion to try to justify Egypt's role in the conflict.

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Both sides have continued to augment their forces in the border area. About 2,000 Libyan troops arrived in Tripoli yesterday, and radio reports from Tripoli indicate that all Libyan reserves are being recalled to duty. Libyan air force personnel in Western Europe have reportedly been ordered home because of the fighting.

Over 2,500 Egyptian reservists apparently arrived in western Egypt on Saturday. These troops were earmarked for major Egyptian units near the border.